

April 8, 1983

LB 267

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, for the committee amendments.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, again the committee amendments wipe out the entire bill other than again the number and the introducers. This is one of the areas at least for the future we thought might be a cost containment feature and this deals with the tuition credit for those people who are in the National Guard. As you know, current law permits 75% tuition credit which the state appropriates to the National Guard which in turn reimburses then the various postsecondary educational institutions that students are participating in and this runs, at least the fall semester of '82-'83, it averaged about \$220 per individual who was participating. What the amendment does is it does not change the provisions in any respect other than placing a cap on the number of participants not to exceed the current year in the future. It would not be cost containment in terms of tuition going up. Then that would be absorbed by the state. But it would put a limit on the number. There is two or three reasons why we thought this would be appropriate. One is that most of the guard units currently are running at one hundred or over a hundred percent of strength and it would appear that the level of or the number of individuals being currently funded must be adequate then in order to maintain the guard at its authorized strength or greater and it is an attempt to have some limit then on the growth that might occur in the future. To give you an example of the growth, '79-'80, we appropriated \$260,000. For '82-'83 it was \$663,000 or a growth of a little over \$400,000 over those four fiscal years. There are currently about 4,000 between all those semesters participants in the program and it seems to us this was a reasonable route to begin to try to have some cost containment on the program. So I move adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle, do you wish to speak on the committee amendments?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I think Senator Warner gets tired of talking and no one else helping him out and I strongly urge the support of this sort of a compromise on the National Guard tuition situation and I think that it has been a program that has been very helpful to the guard in Nebraska, and while we have put a cap on it now so that no more numbers can be added, I think it is a good approach and I hope that you will support it strongly.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on the committee amendments? If not, all those...Senator Warner has closed,